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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED

17 January 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 13 December 1951, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on Semlinerstrasse, Rathenow (N 53/2 15) quartered about 500 troops and was guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. A gun storage shed in the billeting area was filled to capacity with artillery pieces. About 100 troops were seen practicing with 10 model 38 x 152-mm field howitzers at the training field adjoining the billeting area. Motor vehicles identified at the installation

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2. On 14 December, the Pionier Kaserne on Rudolf Breitscheid Strasse was occupied by about 600 troops and guarded by sentries who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Many soldiers, going on furlough, were seen leaving the installation for the railroad station. About 120 soldiers left on 8 December. Vehicles identified in the billeting area

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3. On 14 December, the Infanterie Kaserne at the Nordbahnhof quartered about 700 troops. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Soldiers were seen receiving training with telephones and portable radio sets. Eighty soldiers going on furlough to the U.S.S.R. left the installation for the railroad station. Vehicles were identified.

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4. From 29 November to 14 December, the Ziethen Kaserne on Bahnhofstrasse was occupied by about 150 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Many officers on foot and many motor vehicles were seen in the barracks area.

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5. On 25 November, the Ziethen Kaserne quartered from 500 to 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. On 23 November, 60 unarmed soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying hand baggage were brought to the Rathenow-Nord railroad station on trucks

and entrained there. More baggage was hauled to the station on truck

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2

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6. On 25 November, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on Senlinerstrasse was occupied to capacity by an artillery unit. About 60 x 152-mm artillery pieces were seen in the gun sheds of the installation. Two more 152-mm field howitzers were used for gun drill in the barracks yard. Vehicles [redacted] were identified. 50X1-HUM
7. On 25 November, the Pionier Kaserne on Rudolf Breitscheid Strasse was occupied to capacity and all of its windows lighted after sundown. The troops there were engaged in inside duty and maintenance service on vehicles and equipment. Vehicles [redacted] drove through the gate of the joint billeting area of the Pionier Kaserne and the Infanterie Kaserne. 50X1-HUM
8. On 25 November, the Infanterie Kaserne was occupied to capacity and all of its buildings fully lighted at night. Soldiers observed there were engaged in inside duty and driving practice. The garages and gun sheds were closed.
9. On 23 November, 100 soldiers from the joint billeting area of the Infanterie Kaserne and the Pionier Kaserne were played to the Rathenow-Nord railroad station and, with 400 other soldiers from the remaining barracks installations in Rathenow, were loaded in 15 boxcars which were hauled toward Albertsheim. Most of the troops observed were EM and NCOs with war decorations. They were unarmed and carried only hand baggage. The band subsequently returned to the Infanterie Kaserne. [redacted] these soldiers went to the U.S.S.R. for demobilization after three years of service in the Soviet Zone of Germany. 50X1-HUM
10. On 23 November, a total of 20 officers and 300 NCOs, with baggage, from the Infanterie Kaserne, the Pionier Kaserne and the Kraftfahrer Kaserne were shipped to Magdeburg by rail on orders of headquarters [redacted] the personnel involved were returned home after 12 years of service. * On 26 November, a total of about 4,500 troops with six bands of 12 pieces each were seen marching from the Infanterie Kaserne, the Pionier Kaserne and the Kraftfahrer Kaserne to the city to attend a soccer game. As about one third of the troops in each installation remained in their quarters, the total number of troops in the three aforementioned barracks installations was estimated at 7,000. ** 50X1-HUM

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- 3 -

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- * Comment. [] is probably [] an administrative unit of the IV Arty Corps in Rathenow. As this [] has been [] observed as dispatcher and consignee of troop shipments and as [] mentions it as pertaining to a headquarters processing the discharges for the three Waldkasernen, it is conceivable that [] belongs to an agency at the Hq IV Arty Corps which has functions exceeding those of a mere administrative unit. 50X1-HUM
- ** Comment. This report [] confirm the Kraftfahrer Kaserne, the Pionier Kaserne and the Infanterie Kaserne as quartering components of the 6th Arty Div, and the Ziethen Kaserne as probably housing the Hq IV Arty Corps. Components of the 65th (?) Mort Brig have been carried to date in the Infanterie Kaserne, and components of the 10th (?) Gun Arty Brig in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne and the Pionier Kaserne. [] It remains 50X1-HUM
undetermined whether the reported 152-mm guns were model 38 field howitzers or model 37 gm howitzers. In view of the T/O strengths of the brigades concerned, the strength estimates [] of paragraphs 1 through 5 of the present 50X1-HUM
report are substantially too low, whereas the estimate of 7,000 troops in paragraph 10 is too high. However, in the three Waldkasernen, Rathenow, during the last months, weapons observed have included: about 50 x 122-mm and about 50 x 152-mm guns, most of them apparently howitzers; models 39 and 42x76.2-mm field guns; 14 x 57-mm AT guns; and 160-mm mortars. In view of these observations and the total strength estimate given in paragraph 10 of the present report, it appears possible that one additional howitzer artillery brigade may be stationed in Rathenow besides the two aforementioned brigades of the 6th Arty Div. The AT guns observed are believed to be organically assigned to these 50X1-HUM
brigades.

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